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## COOKING

Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home\* fires and home fire injuries. Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fire started with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.



### Facts & figures

- Cooking equipment fires are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries. These fires accounted for 40% of all reported home structure fires and 36% of home civilian injuries.
- Cooking equipment was involved in two of every five (41%) reported home fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in these fires.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but these incidents accounted 15% of the cooking fire deaths.
- Ranges accounted for the largest share (59%) of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
- Three of every five (59%) reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.
- Frying poses the greatest risk of fire.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

**Source:** NFPA Fire Analysis and Research Division

Also see: [Fact sheet on home fires involving cooking equipment](#).(PDF, 76 KB)

\*Homes include one- and two-family dwellings, apartments (regardless of ownership), and manufactured housing.

*NFPA does not test, label or approve any products.*  
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### In this Section:

#### > [Cooking safety tips](#)

What you need to know about staying fire-safe in the kitchen.

#### > [Grills](#)

Learn how to use your gas-fueled or charcoal grill safely.



- ▶ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- ▶ Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- ▶ If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- ▶ [See all safety tips](#)



#### AUDIO

Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Communications, talks about cooking safety:

- ▶ [Simple ways to prevent cooking fires](#)
- ▶ [Clothes and cooking fires](#)
- ▶ [When do most cooking fires occur?](#)
- ▶ [Why you should avoid fighting a cooking fire](#)
- ▶ [The leading cause of cooking fires](#)

> **Reports and statistics**

NFPA reports and other research on cooking fires.

> **Keep Your Community Cooking Safely**

An online toolkit for public educators.

> **Videos and presentations**

USFA, NFPA produced these videos and presentation tools .

> **Microwave ovens**

One of the leading home products associated with scald burn injuries.

> **Cooking oil**

An oil fire can surge up and out of the pan almost instantly.

> **Turkey fryers**

NFPA discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers.

**URL:** <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=282&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Causes/Cooking>

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